

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing energy consumption and energy cost at an end-user facility comprising the steps of:

- gathering information about energy consumption requirements of an end-user;
- retrieving information on the quantity of energy available ~~availability of energy supplied~~ by energy suppliers to end-users;
- compiling a list of energy usage options, for energy consumption of a particular device within a particular time period, based on energy consumption requirements and quantity of energy available ~~availability~~, said energy use options including energy supply entities and end-users that generate energy;
- selecting the energy use option from the compiled list that provides the optimal energy use for a particular device; and
- implementing the selected energy use option at the end-user facility.

Claim 2 (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said gathering information step comprises determining the number of devices of the user that require the consumption of energy in order to operate.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 2 wherein said information gathering step further comprises gathering information on each such device of the user, such information comprising the amount of time that the device will be operating, the preferred time of day for operating the device, the types of energy required by the device and the amount of energy typically used ~~use~~ by the device in standard operations.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing energy consumption and energy cost at an end-user facility comprising the steps of:

gathering information about energy consumption requirements of an end-user;  
retrieving information on the availability of energy supplied by energy suppliers to end-users, such retrieved information comprising the types of energy provided by the resource, the amount of energy available over a particular time range, and the price of the energy of the particular time range;  
compiling a list of energy usage options, for energy consumption of a particular device within a particular time period, based on energy consumption requirements and energy availability said energy use options including energy supply entities and end-users that generate energy; and  
selecting the energy use option from the compiled list that provides the optimal energy use for a particular device.

~~The method as described in claim 3 wherein said information retrieval step comprises retrieving information on each energy resource, such information comprising the types of energy provided by the resource, the amount of energy available over a particular time range, and the price of the energy of the particular time range.~~

Claim 5 (Original) The method as described in claim 4 wherein said compilation of optimal energy use options list comprises the steps of:

creating, from energy consumption requirements information, an energy consumption policy for each device that will consume energy;  
creating an energy availability profile from the information retrieved on each energy source;  
comparing the energy requirements of a device for which energy is desired with the available energy from the energy resources; and  
generating a list of optimal energy resources based on said comparisons.

Claim 6 (Original) The method as described in claim 5 wherein the selection of an energy resource is based on a match between the amounts of energy required by a device for operation and the quantity of energy available from each of the energy suppliers during a particular time range.

Claim 7 (Original) The method as described in claim 5 wherein said selection and implementation steps are automatically performed based on established end-user energy consumption policies.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn)

Claim 9 (Withdrawn)

Claim 10 (Withdrawn)

Claim 11 (Withdrawn)

Claim 12 (Withdrawn)

Claim 13 (Withdrawn)

Claim 14 (Withdrawn)

Claim 15 (Withdrawn)

Claim 16 (Withdrawn)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A system for optimizing energy consumption and energy cost at an end-user location comprising:

an end-user controller including an accounting program and a memory operatively connected to said accounting program, said controller capable of identifying energy usage options;

a terminal, adapted to enable an end-user to communicate with said controller for the purpose of transmitting information about appliance operating requirements to said accounting program;

an energy information storage facility for storing and maintaining information about available energy sources for the end-user, the maintained information types of energy available, quantity of energy available from each energy supplier and price of energy from each energy supplier;

AH a decision-making entity that automatically selects and implements an optimal energy option, the selection and implementation being based on an established end-user energy consumption policy; and

a communication network the enables communication between said end-user controller and said energy information storage facility.

18. The system as described in claim 17 wherein said end-user controller is adapted to retrieve from said storage facility information about energy options.

19. The system as described in claim 17 wherein said decision-making entity is contained in said end-user controller.

20. The system as described in claim 18 wherein said energy information storage facility is an energy accounting server.

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The system as described in claim 17 ~~21~~ wherein said stored information is arranged such that information for each energy supplier is arranged in a record containing fields with the types of information in each field.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) The system as described in claim ~~17-21~~ wherein said accounting server further contains information about energy compensation options, which include such as bartering, auctions and fix prices.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn)

Claim 25 (Withdrawn)

Claim 26 (Withdrawn)

Claim 27 (Withdrawn)

Claim 28 (Withdrawn)

Claim 29 (Withdrawn)

Claim 30 (Withdrawn)

Claim 31 (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for optimizing energy consumption and energy cost at an end-user facility comprising:

- instructions for gathering information about energy consumption requirements of an end-user;

- instructions for retrieving information on the quantity of energy available ~~availability of energy supplied~~ by energy suppliers to end-users;

- instructions for compiling a list of energy usage options, for energy consumption of a particular device within a particular time period, based on energy consumption requirements and quantity of energy available ~~availability~~, said energy use options including energy supply entities and end-users that generate energy;

- instructions for selecting the energy use option from the compiled list that provides the optimal energy use for a particular device; and

- instructions for implementing the selected energy use option at the end-user facility.

32. The computer program product as described in claim 30 wherein said gathering information instruction further comprises instructions for determining the number of devices of the user that require the consumption of energy in order to operate.

33. The computer program product as described in claim 31 wherein said information gathering instruction further comprises gathering information on each such device of the user, such information comprising the amount of time that the device will be operating, the preferred time of day for operating the device, the types of energy required by the device and the amount of energy typically use by the device in standard operations.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for optimizing energy consumption and energy cost at an end-user facility comprising:

instructions for gathering information about energy consumption requirements of an end-user;

instructions for retrieving information on the availability of energy supplied by energy suppliers to end-users, such retrieved information comprising the types of energy provided by the resource, the amount of energy available over a particular time range, and the price of the energy of the particular time range;

instructions for compiling a list of energy usage options, for energy consumption of a particular device within a particular time period, based on energy consumption requirements and energy availability said energy use options including energy supply entities and end-users that generate energy; and

instructions for selecting the energy use option from the compiled list that provides the optimal energy use for a particular device.

~~The computer program product as described in claim 32 wherein said instruction for information retrieval of available energy resources comprises retrieving information on each energy resource, such information comprising the types of energy provided by the resource, the amount of energy available over a particular time range, and the price of the energy of the particular time range.~~

Claim 35 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 34 wherein said instruction for compilation of optimal energy use options list further comprises:

instructions for creating, from energy consumption requirements information, an energy consumption policy for each device that will consume energy;

instructions for creating an energy availability profile from the information retrieved on each energy source;

instructions for comparing the energy requirements of a device for which energy is desired with the available energy from the energy resources; and

instructions for generating a list of optimal energy resources based on said comparisons.

Claim 36 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 35 wherein the selection of an energy resource is based on a match between the amounts of energy required by a device for operation and the quantity of energy available from each of the energy suppliers during a particular time range.

Claim 37 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 35 wherein the selection of an energy resource is based on an optimal energy policy for the particular end-user device.